

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 18 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of claim 18 showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

18. (amended) A method for preparing a physiologically compatible film that adheres to and dissolves in a consumer's mouth said method comprising:

- mixing at least one water soluble film former and at least one stabilizing agent to provide a film-forming mixture;
- dissolving water-soluble ingredients in water to provide an aqueous solution;
- combining said film forming mixture and said aqueous solution to provide a hydrated polymer gel;
- mixing oils to form an oil mixture that comprises at least two essential oils selected from the group consisting of thymol, methyl salicylate, eucalyptol, and menthol;
- adding said oil mixture to said hydrated polymer gel and mixing to provide a uniform gel;
- casting the uniform gel on a substrate; and
- drying the cast gel to provide said film that adheres to and dissolves in a consumer's mouth.

REMARKS

The claims are 18 to 30. Claim 18 has been amended to further define the present invention. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

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